

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 101 without prejudice or disclaimer, add claims 102-105, and amend claims 1-4, 7-9, 12-13, 16, 23, 31-60 and 98-99 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A network element ~~for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:~~

a monitoring unit configured to monitor at least one parameter related to ~~the a~~ connection between ~~said a~~ mobile station and ~~said a~~ end element; and

a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring unit,

wherein the network element is configured between the mobile station and the end element and the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

2. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter comprises user activity and said network element is arranged~~configured~~ to release said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time~~when the determining unit determines that the connection is to be released.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said network element is ~~arranged~~configured to release the connection between the network

element and said mobile station dependent solely on the user activity monitored by said monitoring unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said network element is ~~arranged~~configured to send a message to the end element indicating that said connection has been released.

5. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is ~~arranged~~configured to send a request for the connection to be released to said mobile station.

6. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein the end element sends a connection release command to said network element in response to the release request received by said network element, said network element controlling the release of said connection.

7. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said network element is ~~arranged~~configured to send a release request to said mobile station in response to the release command received from said end element.

8. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said network element is ~~arranged~~configured to send a message to said end element advising that the connection has been released.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a~~

~~connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:~~

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to ~~the~~ a connection between ~~said a~~ mobile station and ~~said a~~ end element; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said means for monitoring, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring means indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time,

wherein the network element is configured between the mobile station and the end element and the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

10. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the type of traffic for which the connection is intended.

11. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined time depends on the quality of service profile of the traffic for which the connection is intended.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:~~

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to ~~the~~ a connection between ~~said~~ a mobile station and ~~said~~ a end element; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said end element and said

mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring ~~means for monitoring~~, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~ configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means,

wherein the network element is configured between the mobile station and the end element and the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:~~

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to ~~the~~ a connection between ~~said~~ a mobile station and ~~said~~ a end element; and

determining means for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring ~~means for monitoring~~, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~ configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means,

wherein the network element is configured between the mobile station and the end element and the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

14. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the amount of updating information received in a given time from the mobile station is used as a measure of the movement of the mobile station.

15. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 14, wherein said updating information comprises URA updates.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A network element for use in a communication network, said network element being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, said network element comprising a radio network controller, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said network element, said network element comprising:~~

monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to ~~the~~ a connection between ~~said a~~ mobile station and ~~said a~~ end element; and

determining ~~means~~ for determining if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring ~~means for monitoring~~, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~ configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means,

wherein the network element is configured between the mobile station and the end element and the connection is established between the mobile station and the end element via the network element.

17. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 16, wherein said at least one parameter comprises associations of the mobile station with different network elements, and said determining means determines that the connection should be released if said monitoring means indicates that the mobile station is associated with a different network element.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 1, a mobile station and an end element.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said end element is SGSN.

22. (Previously Presented) The network as claimed in claim 19, wherein said network operates in accordance with the UMTS Standard.

23. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said network element is ~~arranged~~configured to send a message to the end element indicating that said connection has been released.

24. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining means determines that the connection is to be released if said

monitoring means indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

25. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unit indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

26. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unit indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

27. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unit indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

28. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unit indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

29. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unit indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

30. (Previously Presented) The network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time since the last use of the connection, and said determining unit determines that the connection is to be released if said monitoring unit indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time.

31. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unit.

32. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unit.

33. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unit.

34. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unit.

35. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unit.

36. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unit.

37. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring unit.

38. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means.

39. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means.

40. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining

means is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitoring means.

41. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

42. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

43. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

44. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

45. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

46. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

47. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

48. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

49. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

50. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be

released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

51. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

52. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

53. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 4, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

54. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 5, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

55. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

56. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

57. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 8, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring unit.

58. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

59. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

60. (Currently Amended) The network element as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining means is ~~arranged~~configured to determine if the connection should be

released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitoring means.

61.-76. (Canceled)

77. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 2, a mobile station and an end element.

78. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 3, a mobile station and an end element.

79. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 4, a mobile station and an end element.

80. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 5, a mobile station and an end element.

81. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 6, a mobile station and an end element.

82. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 7, a mobile station and an end element.

83. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 8, a mobile station and an end element

84. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 9, a mobile station and an end element.

85. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 10, a mobile station and an end element.

86. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 11, a mobile station and an end element.

87. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 12, a mobile station and an end element.

88. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 13, a mobile station and an end element.

89. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 14, a mobile station and an end element.

90. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 15, a mobile station and an end element.

91. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 16, a mobile station and an end element.

92. (Previously Presented) A network comprising a network element as claimed in claim 17, a mobile station and an end element.

93. (Cancelled)

94. (Cancelled)

95. (Cancelled).

96. (Previously Presented) The network as claimed in claim 21, wherein said network operates in accordance with the UMTS Standard.

97. (Previously Presented) The network element of claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one of a state of the mobile station, movement of the mobile station, or the amount of communications between the mobile station and the radio network controller.

98. (Currently Amended) ~~A radio network controller for use in a communication network, said radio network controller being arranged between a mobile station and an end element, wherein a connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said radio network controller, said radio network controller comprising:~~

a processor ~~arranged~~configured to monitor at least one parameter of ~~the~~a connection established between ~~the~~a mobile station and ~~the~~a end element and to determine if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter,

wherein the radio network controller is implemented in a communication network, said radio network controller being configured between the mobile station and the end element, wherein the connection is established between said mobile station and said end element via said radio network controller.

99. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

establishing a connection between a mobile station and an end element in a communication network through a radio network controller ~~arranged~~configured between the mobile station and the end element;

monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the end element; and

determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said end element and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter.

100. (Previously Presented) The radio network controller of claim 98, wherein said end element is a Serving General Packet Radio Service Support Node (SGSN).

101. (Cancelled)

102. (New) The network element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network element is configured to release the connection between the network element and said mobile station dependent solely on only one parameter monitored by said monitoring unit.

103. (New) The method as claimed in claim 99, wherein said at least one parameter comprises user activity, and determining releasing said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time.

104. (New) The method as claimed in claim 103, further comprising releasing the connection dependent solely on the user activity monitored by said monitoring unit.

105. (New) The method as claimed in claim 99, wherein only one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the end element is monitored and determining releasing the connection between the network element and said mobile station dependent solely on the only one parameter monitored.